

The Serpent - The Lord Speaks the Truth

Foundation

Bible passage: Gen 2.15-16 & 3.1-7 and Isaiah 45.19

The serpent in the garden

God had given Adam and Eve all the fruit of the garden of Eden except for the fruit of one tree. He had specifically commanded them not to eat that fruit. But the serpent misled Eve, and through her Adam, into disobeying God.

First the serpent said, “Did God actually say ‘you shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”. This is a subtle twisting of what God had said. He had permitted them to eat of any tree except one. Eve answered correctly in repeating what God had said to Adam though she adds an additional command that they are not to touch the tree.

The serpent then lied by directly contradicting what God said and deceived Eve into thinking that God’s reason for the command was a bad one. Eve believed the lie rather than the truth, presumably because she wanted to eat the fruit. God had not commanded Eve, but Adam. When Eve gave him fruit to eat, he could and should have refused, but he too took the fruit and ate.

When we lie or deceive people it always has consequences even if they can seem very small at the time. Even apparently small lies break down trust and relationships between people or cause us to think badly of those we deceive.

In the case of this lie, because Adam and Eve broke the command of God they damaged their relationship with Him, they damaged their relationship with one another, they were separated from God, their family would also be damaged, and they would eventually die as God had said.

Adam and Eve depicted in a mural in Abreha wa Atsbeha Church, Ethiopia



Thankfully, the damage of the Fall is undone by Christ and will eventually be wiped away completely.

**“I the LORD speak the truth;
I declare what is right”**

The Lord speaks the truth

Hundreds of years before Christ God said through Isaiah, “I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right.” (Isa 45.19). It was a message given at a time when people were disobeying God and bringing destruction on themselves. The people should have realised that God’s warnings were true and taken them seriously.

The prophecy also speaks to the people who would live through the trouble that would come on Israel because they kept disobeying God. During the time of the exile (the time of Daniel, Esther etc.) people would be able to find comfort because God speaks the truth and so they could see that despite the troubles God was in control and better times would come.



Adam and Eve should have realised that God speaks the truth and so not listened to the serpents lies and distortions.